

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJ: PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON PAK-INDIAN

TALKS

1. WHILE SEEING AGHA SHAHI ON ANOTHER MATTER, I ASKED IN GENERAL HOW THE PAK-INDIAN TALKS HAD GONE OFF YESTERDAY MORNING AND HE SAID THEY HAD GONE QUITE WELL AS FAR AS THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE CONCERNED. HE SAID HE DID NOT FORESEE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN THE TECHNICAL MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION, WHICH HAD BEEN REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES. LATER ON HE SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED ON THESE MATTERS BY TONIGHT. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT THEY MIGHT REACH AGREEMENT TO HAVE SPECIAL DELEGATIONS MEET LATER ON ON UNSETTLED MATTERS RE OVERFLIGHTS.

2. ON BROADER ISSUES, AGHA SHAHI SAID HIS CONVERSATION

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WITH KEWAL SINGH HAD BEEN QUITE FRANK. THE LATTER HAD

APPARENTLY ASKED WHAT THE MOTIVATION OF PAKISTAN WAS IN ITS EFFORTS TO SECURE A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE FOR THE SUBCONTINENT. SHAHI SAID HE HAD REPLIED THAT THE MOTIVATION SHOULD SEEM QUITE CLEAR TO EVERYONE AND THAT WAS TO PREVENT THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE AREA. SHAHI SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THERE COULD NOT BE EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES PROVIDING THEY WERE UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION, CITING LATIN AMERICA AS AN EXAMPLE. SHAHI SAID HE THOUGHT THAT INDIA SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR THE FEELING OF SECURITY OF NON-NUCLEAR STATES. HE SAID BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN WERE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHO FOUND THEMSELVES INVOLVED IN WORLD PROBLEMS OR IN REGIONAL MATTERS IN AREAS FAR REMOVED FROM SOUTH ASIA. SHAHI SUGGESTED THAT IF INDIA COULD TAKE A POSITIVE VIEW OF THIS PROPOSAL IT COULD GIVE LEADERSHIP TO THE WORLD BY MOVING IN THE DIRECTION EARNESTLY DESIRED NOT ONLY BY PAKISTAN, BUT OBVIOUSLY BY MANY OTHER NATIONS AS WELL. HE SAID THE FACT THAT IRAN HAD MADE A PROPOSAL IN THIS SAME FIELD FOR THE MIDDLE EAST HAD ENCOURAGED PAKISTAN TO SPONSOR ITS OWN PROPOSAL.

3. KEWAL SINGH REPLIED THAT INDIA WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO REASSURE PAKISTAN, BUT THEY HAD SOME VERY DEFINITE VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS. HE SAID THAT SOME OF THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY CANADA, FOR INSTANCE, HAD BEEN ACTUALLY INSULTING. WHY, HE ASKED, INDIA ALONE, WHY NOT NUCLEAR POWERS SUCH AS THE US, UK, USSR, CHINA, ETC? KEWAL SAID PAKISTAN COULD BE ASSURED THAT NO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WOULD TURN TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AGHA SHAHI MADE POINT THAT NO GOVERNMENT COULD BIND ITS SUCCESSOR WITH MERE STATEMENT OF PRESENT INTENTIONS OF ITS PEOPLE, AND APPARENTLY SUGGESTED THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS FORMAL CONTRACTUAL AND BINDING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES. THIS ITEM APPARENTLY WAS CLOSED WITH KEWAL SINGH SAYING THEY WOULD GIVE CONTINUING STUDY TO AGHA SHAHI'S REMARKS.

4. AS KEWAL SINGH HAD APPARENTLY PROMPTED AGHA SHAHI TO SPEAK FRANKLY AND OPENLY, THE LATTER SAID HE HAD BROUGHT
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UP THE SUBJECT OF SIKKIM. HE SAID THE INDIAN ACTION THERE WAS LOOKED UPON MOST SERIOUSLY BY THE GOP. HE SAID THEIR NATURAL INCLINATION WOULD HAVE BEEN TO DENOUNCE THIS MOVE PUBLICLY BUT THEY HAD REFRAINED FOR THE MOST PART FROM DOING SO BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT THE PRESENT TALKS TO PROCEED IN THAT KIND OF CLIMATE. KEWAL SINGH SHOULD NOT INTERPRET THEIR MODERATION IN THE PRESS ON THIS MOVE TO INDICATE ANY LACK OF REAL CONCERN. UDAHI SAID

THAT IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT THE PROVISION OF SEATS IN THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT TO SIKKIM MEANT THE VIRTUAL ABSORPTION OF SIKKIM BY INDIA AS AN ASSOCIATE STATE AND AT THE VERY LEAST EFFECTIVELY ERODED ANY INTERNATIONAL STANDING OF SIKKIM. SHAHI THEN APPARENTLY WENT INTO A RECITATION OF HISTORY WHICH SHOWED THAT SIKKIM WAS NOT A PART OF INDIA AT THE TIME OF PARTITION AND HAD BEEN DEFINITELY KEPT SEPARATE BY THE BRITISH. HE SAID THAT PAKISTAN WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE ONLY NATION THAT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE APPARENT TREND IN INDIAN POLICY, MAKING REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD SMALL STATES SEEMED TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO EXIST ON THE BORDERS OF GREAT STATES. HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED SO DESPERATELY WAS A CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE IN WHICH THE SIMLA PROCESS COULD CONTINUE TO RUN ITS FULL COURSE, BUT THAT SUCH ACTS BY INDIA MADE CREATION OF THAT CLIMATE MUCH HARDER.

5. KEWAL SINGH APPARENTLY TALKED OF INDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES RE SIKKIM SINCE THE 1947 PARTITION, WHICH INCLUDED FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE AND "GOOD ADMINISTRATION." HE SAID THAT INDIA HAD BEEN PATIENT BUT THAT THE CHOGYAL WANTED TO CONTINUE ABSOLUTE RULE. HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE PEOPLE OF SIKKIM WANTED TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE MATTERS AFFECTING THEM WERE HANDLED ANYWAY.

6. AGHA SHAHI RETURNED TO THE REMARK THAT SIKKIM WAS, FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW, OUTSIDE INDIAN TERRITORY. RELATIONS WITH IT HAD BEEN GOVERNED BY TREATY WHICH HAS NOW BEEN DISCARDED BY INDIA. HE SAID HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH KEWAL SINGH'S STATEMENTS THAT NO ONE SEEMED TO OBJECT, AS THIS CERTAINLY WAS NOT TRUE FOR NEPAL NOR INDEED
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THE REAL FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF BHUTAN, NOR INDEED CHINA FOR THAT MATTER. IT WAS A MOVE THAT COULD HARDLY INSPIRE CONFIDENCE OF OTHER SMALL HIMALAYAN STATES.

7. AGHA SHAHI SAID THEY WERE IN NO WAY CONVINCED BY THE PRESENTATION OF KEWAL SINGH ON THIS SUBJECT. I ASKED IF HE THOUGHT TALKS ON BROADER SUBJECTS SUCH AS THIS MIGHT COMPLICATE THE SOLUTION TO TECHNICAL ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. HE SAID HE WAS QUITE CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD NOT.

8. BHUTTO LAST NIGHT AT DINNER TOOK LINE ON SIKKIM PARALLELING FOR THE MOST PART THE REMARKS TO SHAHI CONCLUDED HEREIN. HE SAID BHUTAN WOULD BE NEXT.
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